Accessibility of research scholars to official documents

554. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Researchers/Scholars are allowed access to official documents after 30 years;

(b) whether it is a fact that some scholars have been given access to such documents while others have been denied such permission;

(c) which authority is competent to take final decisions;

(d) whether statutorily enforceable rules have been framed on the subject; and

(e) whether Government propose to enact a comprehensive law and also to promulgate clear rules on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Permission is not required by bona-fide researchers/ scholars to consult 30 years old 'open category records' housed in the National Archives of India. However, permission of the records creating agency is required for consultation of such records as are classified or are of sensitive nature.

(d) and (e) Statutory Rules under the Public records Act, 1993 are being framed.

Newspaper Report on Banned Pesticides

555. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in Indian Express of 23rd October, 1995 under the caption "Banned pesticides leave residue in food";

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) whether BHC and DDT were long ago put on the list of 'extinct' pesticides in developed countries, but India has failed to do so yet; if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government have so far taken in this regard; and

(d) to what extent these pesticides are affecting the vegetables, fruits, cereals and the health of the people who are consuming these products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). In 1989, the Government has banned the use of DDT in agriculture and its use in public health has been restricted to 10,000 MT per annum. Further the use of BHC has been banned on fruits, vegetables, oilseed crops and preservation of foodgrain. The proposal to impose complete ban on the use of BHC after March 31, 1997 is under process. Sample analysis of 84 specimens of vegetables and cereals undertaken during 1994-95, revealed that the BHC residue, wherever detected, was below the limit prescribed under the PF Act and DDT residue, wherever detected was below the limit prescribed by Codex Alimantarius Commission.

Further, the Government is advocating